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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Commodity Credit Corporation
Office of Supply
425 Wilson Building
Dallas 1, Texas

Approximate Time 6 Minutes
January 22, 1945
No. A4

MUSIC: UP AND UNDER

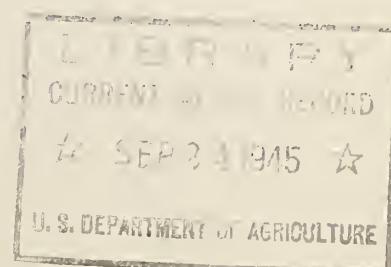
ANNOUNCER: Radio Station _____ presents...FOOD FRONT HEADLINES...a behind-the-scene story of how our food moves from farms to battle lines... from ships to Allied supply depots...from grocery shelves to civilian tables. And here...ready to take you backstage of the American food drama...is _____ of the War Food Administration. Don't be surprised if he starts talking backwards... because he's going in reverse and tell us something about the benefits we're getting from lend-lease.

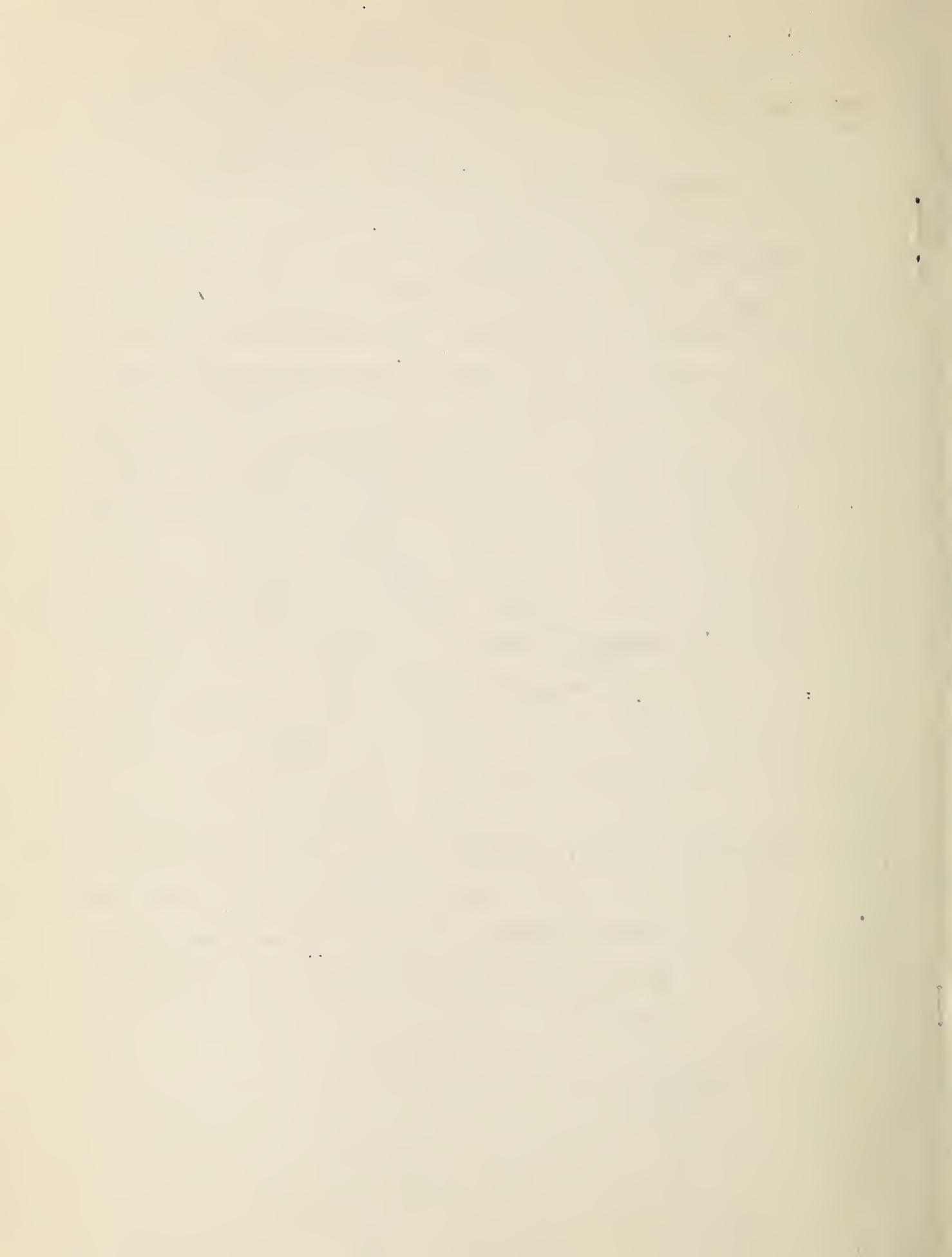
DIST. REP: You sound a little doubtful...but suppose I told you that...as a contribution to lend-lease in reverse...Fiji Islanders have supplies American soldiers with more than five thousand dollars worth of ice cream.

ANNOUNCER: I'd say it was wonderful. Tell me more.

DIST. REP: Well...you know...lend-lease has been described as the principle of mutual assistance. Goods move two ways. While we're sending our allies food...fighting equipment...seed...farm machinery... and so on...they're reciprocating with supplies our soldiers overseas must have.

ANNOUNCER: That's something to think about.





DIST. REP: Imagine how impractical it would be for us to try to ship ice cream...or even fresh milk...to our soldiers in the Fijis. It's impractical also to ship fresh fruits and vegetables half around the world.

ANNOUNCER: But surely our benefits from lend-lease in reverse are not confined to fresh foods. Don't we also get canned and dehydrated foods...as well as equipment...labor...and other things?

DIST. REP: Sure we do. For instance...both Australia and New Zealand are devoting 18 percent of their total war budgets to the United States armed forces.

ANNOUNCER: That should be a big help in the Pacific theater.

DIST. REP: It certainly is. In the food line alone...we have received about one billion eight hundred and 50 million pounds.

ANNOUNCER: Wait a minute. Suppose we had shipped one billion eight hundred and fifty million pounds of food from this country to our soldiers in the Pacific. That would take a lot of ships...wouldn't it?

DIST. REP: About 130.

ANNOUNCER: Then...we had 130 more ships in which to transport guns...tanks... and other equipment...because Australia and New Zealand supplied our soldiers with part of their food requirements.

DIST. REP: That's right. And those ships were badly needed for supplies which could not be produced in Australia and New Zealand at all...or which were not produced in sufficient quantities to fill the needs of our armed forces.

ANNOUNCER: Lend-lease in reverse must have brought many changes in the Australian food picture. As I understand it...Australians were not big vegetable eaters before the war...and our boys are.

DIST. REP: The result has been a considerable increase in fresh vegetable production in both Australia and New Zealand. For example...the New Zealand Agriculture Department has transformed more than five thousand acres of pasture land into market gardens. These gardens produce up to four and a half million pounds of fresh vegetables a month...for allied armed forces.

ANNOUNCER: What about other foods?

DIST. REP: Civilians in Australia and New Zealand have cut down their consumption of dairy products in order to provide a share for Americans. Our boys over there have received millions of pounds of butter...cheese...and milk.

ANNOUNCER: What about meat?

DIST. REP: More than 400 million pounds of beef...veal...lamb...pork...and various canned meats.

ANNOUNCER: We've been talking a lot about Australia and New Zealand...and you've mentioned the Fiji Islands. Don't we get food from other countries too?

DIST. REP: Yes...we do. Farmers of Great Britain supply our British based soldiers with a fifth of their food rations. The French have furnished our Army with more than 30 million dollars worth of food. Even Russia...where the food supply has been very critical...has provided food for American soldiers under lend-lease in reverse.

ANNOUNCER: Besides that...we have to depend on our allies for barracks...construction supplies...labor for building airfields...and countless other items...don't we?

DIST. REP: Of course. Supplies received from Great Britain under lend-lease in reverse run all the way from Spitfire planes to blankets. The list includes meteorological equipment...defrosting devices...hangars...protective armor...tires...parachutes...and numerous other things.

ANNOUNCER: What are some of the other allied countries furnishing us? India...for instance.

DIST. REP: From India, we've received aviation gasoline...lubricating oil...and other vital petroleum products. Also jute...burlap...and mica.

ANNOUNCER: I know China has provided us with large bases for American bombers. and the Russians have given us labor for airfields.

DIST. REP: British Africa has sent us cocoa...palm kernels...palm oil...asbestos...chrome...and fibers. Ceylon has furnished crude rubber and tea.

ANNOUNCER: That's enough. Looks like our allies are cooperating in every way they can...in what you call the principle of mutual assistance...or lend-lease in reverse. I guess this principle of mutual assistance is really nothing more than international cooperation. It must have done a lot to further our progress in the war.

DIST. REP: Here's a good example. During the invasion of North Africa... it was discovered that American aerial radios were not satisfactory in Africa. Naturally we couldn't wait for special equipment to be made up and shipped over...so members of the British RAF stripped the radio equipment from their planes...and installed it in the American fighter planes which were to fly in the invasion.

ANNOUNCER: I'd say that was real mutual assistance.

DIST. REP: It was very vital assistance...and so was the ice cream the Fiji Islanders furnished...only in a different way.

ANNOUNCER: Folks...that was _____, District Representative of the War Food Administration. Listen next _____ to FOOD FRONT HEADLINES...presented as a public service feature by Radio Station _____ ...to bring you inside facts from authoritative sources about what's happening on the agricultural firing line.

